

“Arli the Fullblood Cow”



By Joan Herrington Thorne

Arli was a Fullblood Braunvieh cow that Abbie purchased from Ian and Verona Pedan in Canada. He paid a lot of money for this gentle cow and she never did produce the mega champions we intended her to produce but, she was so kind and gentle that having her around made her worth her weight in gold.

This story begins with me watching and caring for the herd while Abbie dear was on a trip to Colorado to take steers to the Great Western Beef Expo a feed out in Sterling, Colorado. It was Fall calving and everything had been going well so I thought I could handle the situation, whatever unfolded. Everything was fine until I checked the heavies and noticed Arli running around with her tail up and in the process of calving. The strange part was that she kept going in circles and would not get down to business. So since she was so gentle I walked up behind her and checked to see if the calf was coming normally. I could see a nose and one foot visually. She let me check so far but not enough to reach in and pull the foot up that was turned back. So I went to the house and called the vet from Vinita just in case I couldn't get the job done and proceeded to walk out with a flash light and a bucket of feed and tried to lead or drive her up to the barn. This pasture is south of the house about ¼ of mile and there were three gates before I could get her there, but the problem was she would not drive because she kept going in circles. She about made me dizzy trying to keep up with her but I kept her headed towards the barn with me holding her tail to get her to move. I had her close to one gate and had to tell her to wait as I had to open the gate first. She just looked at me with those big dark brown eyes in questioning fashion. “Like what the heck do you think you are doing woman. Why didn't you open it before you came to get me?” But she did wait and we proceeded to the barn where I thought about waiting for the vet but decided that I could do this and I got her in the chute. I pulled up the turned back foot and got the straps on and hooked up to the stretchers and helped her deliver a strapping baby bull calf. I named that calf “Ace” My ace in the hole! He went onto to be shown by Rod Sullivan in Louisville, KY with our group of get of sire of Silverwood Dragon progeny and was a big pet like his mother. Arlie went to live with Rod, Andrea and Dani Leigh and they enjoyed this sweet cow for many more years.

That vet did show up after all the work was done. I am sure he still billed us for the trip!

I was just happy I saved the calf and cow and helped assist one of our favorite cows in need.

Note: Braunvieh is a purebred breed from Europe that has been purebred for centuries. They are not a composite. The brown cattle that you typically see in the Alps with bells on standing along a mountain side are the Braunvieh cattle. Braunvieh pronounced; Braun (brown) Vieh (cattle) in German